

Available Resources

Child Abuse Care Line (24 hr.)

1-800-999-5545

CONNSACS- Sexual Assault (24 hr.)

1-888-999-5545/En Espanol 1-888-568-8332

CT Bar Association

1-860-223-4400

DOC Victim Services Unit (24 hr.)

1-888-869-7057

Domestic Violence – CCADV (24 hr.)

1-888-774-2900

Elder Abuse (24 hr.)

1-888-385-4225

INFO-Line (24 hour service)

211

MADD Mothers Against Drunk Driving - (24 hr.)

1-800-544-3690

Office of the Child Advocate

1-800-994-0939

Office of Victim Services (OVS)

1-800-822-8428

*(OVS for information, court advocacy, counseling,
notification and victim compensation)*

Safe at Home

Contact the Secretary of the State's Office

860-509-6200

Survivors of Homicide, Inc.

1-888-833-4764

Witness Protection Program

Contact the Office of the Chief State's Attorney

860-258-5800

*If you feel your rights as a crime victim have been
violated or you have questions or concerns
regarding victim rights please contact our office :*

***The Office
Of The Victim Advocate***

1-860-550-6632

Toll Free 1-888-771-3126

Office Of The Victim Advocate

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860-550-6632

Fax: 860-560-7065

E-mail: ova.info@ct.gov

State of Connecticut

Office of The Victim Advocate



Law Enforcement Correction Officer Victim Information



About the OVA

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) was established as an independent state agency to protect and promote the legal rights of crime victims in Connecticut.

Among its many responsibilities, the OVA provides oversight and advocacy when the criminal justice system fails crime victims.

The OVA may receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state or other entity providing services to crime victims. When appropriate, the OVA, may initiate an investigation into the circumstances of a complaint.

The Victim Advocate is authorized by law to file a limited special appearance in any court proceeding for the purpose of advocating for a victim when certain rights have been violated.

In addition, the OVA conducts programs of public education, undertakes legislative advocacy and recommends changes in state policies concerning the treatment and protection of crime victims, including changes in the system of providing direct services to victims.

Who is the State Victim Advocate?



Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.
CT State Victim Advocate

On November 5, 2007, Governor M. Jodi Rell announced the appointment of Michelle Cruz as the State Victim Advocate and she assumed her responsibilities on November 16, 2007.

She received her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA. While attending undergraduate school, she began working with the Hampshire County District Attorney's Office in various capacities, including as an intern for the Victim Witness Advocate Program and for the Education and Outreach Program.

Ms. Cruz graduated from the University of Connecticut, School of Law. Immediately after graduating from law school, Ms. Cruz worked as an Assistant District Attorney for both Hampshire and Hampden County located in Massachusetts.

Ms. Cruz stated, "My experiences have taught me that true wisdom is knowledge combined with compassion. Without compassion, knowledge is little more than well-educated ignorance."

As a crime victim you have the right to restitution, to be reasonably protected from the offender and to speak with the prosecutor. In order to preserve these rights, you must first write a letter to the prosecutor informing the prosecutor if you want the court to impose a plea, sentence, restitution, education, etc.

A note from the Victim Advocate

First, as members of our public criminal justice community, I want to first thank you for your service to protecting our communities. We at the OVA want you to know we appreciate your services and the risks you take daily for the benefit of our communities safety; thank you!

As you know in your roles as law enforcement or correction officers, you may become the victim of an assault or other crime. As a victim you have certain rights granted to you through our State Constitution and through our General Statutes. The fact that your employed as a law enforcement or correction officer does not mean you should be subject to abuse or violence. We at the OVA can assist you if you become a crime victim and our services are confidential.

In your training and/or education you may have undoubtedly learned a great deal about the criminal justice system. However, this information is often of little assistance when trying to navigate the criminal justice system in the role of a crime victim. The OVA can answer questions such as: *How will I learn about the criminal cases against the individual who assaulted me? How can I protect my family and/or myself? How can I receive restitution and or compensation to pay for medical or other out of pocket expenses resulting from the crime?* We can help and point you in the right direction. Call us today! You do not have to navigate the system alone.